

Coastal Citizen Science Program

Danielle Donkersloot
Volunteer Monitoring rep
to the NWQMC
National Monitoring
Conference, 2016



“In 2010, 123.3 million people, or 39 percent of the nation's population lived in counties directly on the shoreline. This population is expected to increase by 8% from 2010 to 2020.” *NOAA Data*



Who Wouldn't want to Live by the Water?



RETAINING WALL



'Hard' infrastructure like retaining walls abruptly severs the ecological connection between the coast and water.

LIVING SHORELINE



Not only do Living Shorelines defend land against destructive waves, but they also provide crucial habitat for fish and wildlife.

The New Norm



Manasquan at high tide today. [See More](#)

81 Likes 22 Comments

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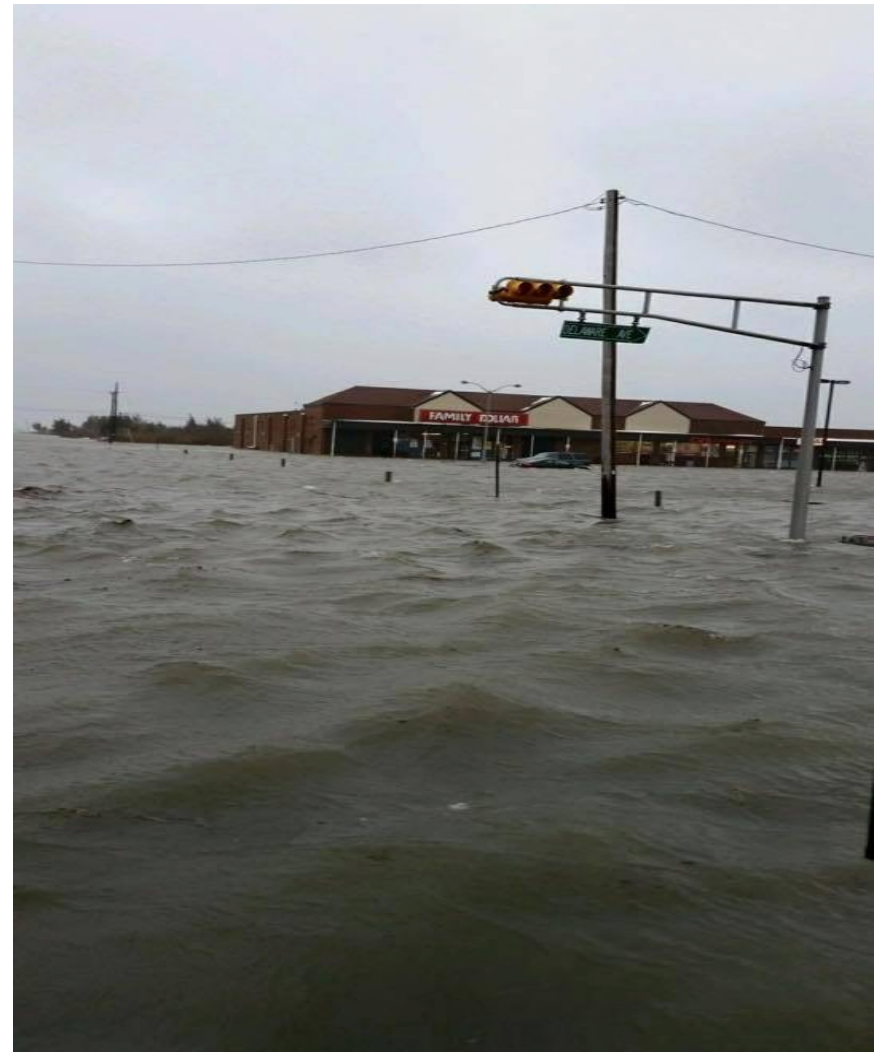
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Super Storm Sandy



Winter Storm Jonas 1/26

- Approximately 31 people died
- 11 states declared a State of Emergency
- Storm Surge in Southern Jersey 9.4 ft.





FL & MO



Citizen Science Coastal Wetlands Program



Citizen Science can be a tremendous asset to communities working on Coastal Resilience. The Citizen Science Coastal Wetlands program is designed to raise the level of understanding Coastal Ecology, and involves students and community members in filling data gaps in coastal ecosystems, identifying program areas and creating long term partnerships.

Citizen Science

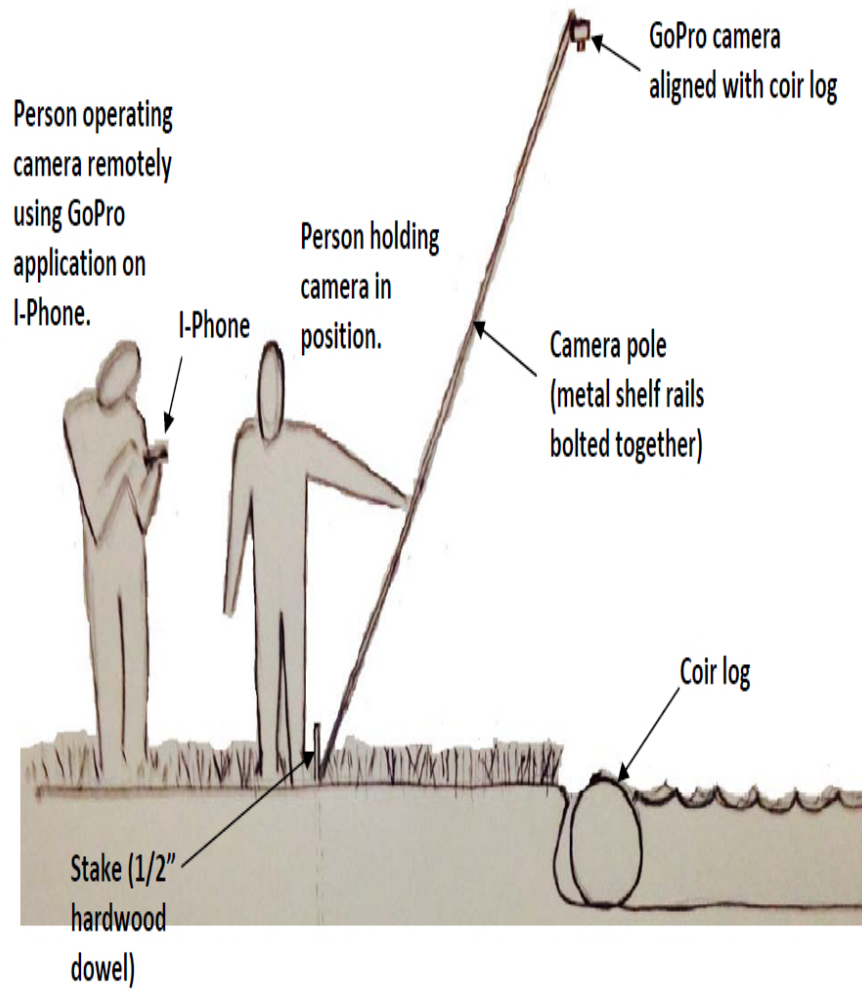
- Raise the Understanding of Wetlands Ecology
- Informed Public = Public Awareness
- Identify Areas in Need of Restoration
- Document Trends Over Time

Funding Attention Deficit Syndrome

Once the funding is gone, the science is gone,
partners are gone...Who's left...

CITIZEN SCIENTISTS

Visual Documentation







Challenges

H

Florida Bans the Term 'Climate Change'



FOTOG VIA GETTY IMAGES

Florida has banned the phrase “climate change,” at least as far as the staff of the state’s environmental agency are concerned. Also “global warming.” And “sustainability” is verboten, too, according to an investigative report in the [*Miami Herald*](#).

“We scientists don’t know how to do that”

“I used to think the top environmental problems were biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse and climate change.

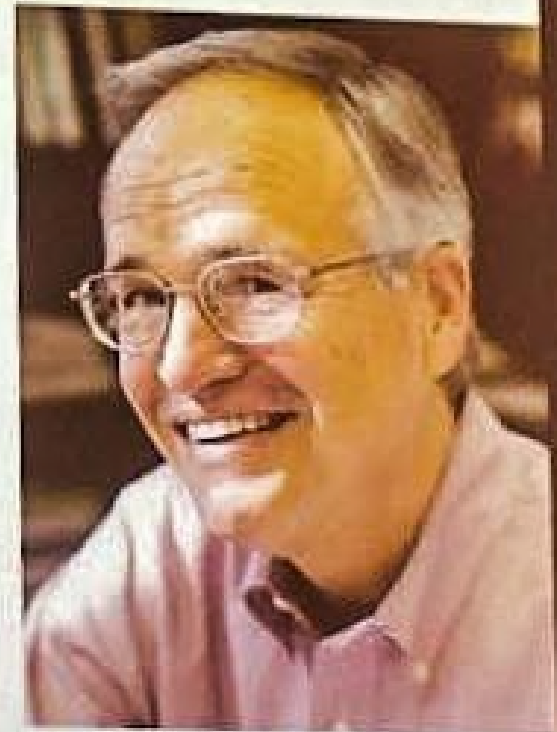
I thought that with 30 years of good science we could address those problems.

But I was wrong.
The top environmental problems are selfishness, greed and apathy...

...and to deal with those we need a spiritual and cultural transformation

- and we scientists don't know how to do that.”

Gus Speth



NO TIME TO EXPLAIN



GET IN THE VAN

Opportunities



